

GERMANS BRING UP NEW DIVISIONS IN EFFORT TO HALT PERSHING

SIX ARMIES OF GERMANS ARE FALLING BACK UNDER BLOWS OF ALLIED TROOPS

Retreat Hinges on Metz, and in That Region the Crown Prince Is Making His Stiffest Resistance.

PARIS, Oct. 21.—Raiding operations in Lorraine and Alsace resulted in capture of prisoners, the French War Office announced today. [This may indicate that the Allies are planning an attack on the southern part of the west front and are seeking information of German troops in that region.]

Six armies under Prince Rupprecht, Gen. von Boehm and the Imperial Crown Prince, pivoting on Metz, are falling back from Belgium and France. The enemy line is swinging like a great gate, the retreat becoming more rapid in proportion to the distance from the hinge.

Thus the Germans are fighting like madmen before Metz, whereas their resistance in Flanders is not so great.

King Albert may enter Brussels within a fortnight. The Fourth and Sixth German Armies of von Arnim and von Quast are hard pressed. They face the alternatives of scrambling back across the Dutch frontier, surrendering to the Belgians or precipitately fleeing southeastward toward Liege. Neither army appears to be in a position to put up a strong defense.

Foch is threatening to wreck Hindenburg's plans at several points on the line. Cavalry is pushing on toward Ghent and Audenarde, threatening Germany's northern flank. British, American and French are menacing the enemy center, while the French and Americans in the Meuse region threaten the very hinge of the whole movement.

HAIG CAPTURES 3,000 PRISONERS; HIS TROOPS NEARING VALENCIENNES

(Continued from First Page.)

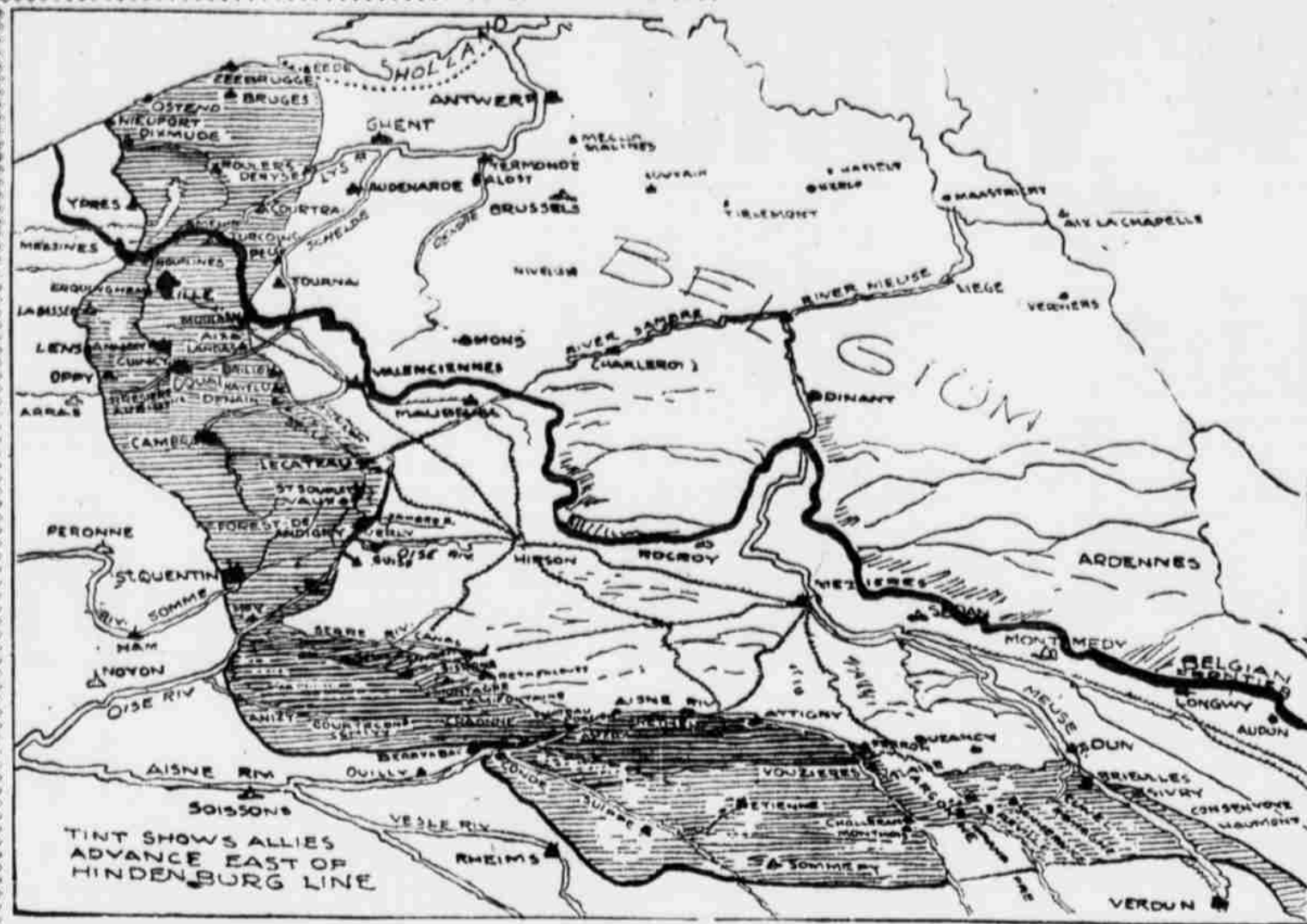
During the heavy fighting of the last week a constantly increasing number of German divisions have been brought up and are bitterly contesting every foot of ground.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 21 (Associated Press).—It is the purpose of the German command to dispute every foot of the American advance on the line west of the Meuse and to inflict the heaviest possible losses, German prisoners captured Sunday declared.

Fierce fighting took place to-day in the Bois de Rappes, on the western end of the American line. In the face of terrific machine gun fire the Americans were forced to fall back. Later they counter attacked and regained the part of the wood that had been lost.

German prisoners say that when the German Government on Oct. 12 told President Wilson that it was ready to comply with the proposition of the President concerning evacuation, the German army had completed arrangements for a withdrawal from France.

LATEST CHANGES IN THE WESTERN BATTLE LINE



LATEST OFFICIAL REPORTS

BRITISH.

LONDON, Oct. 21.—Following is the report issued to-day by the War Office:

"The number of prisoners captured by us in the operation yesterday north of Le Cateau now exceeds 3,000. The enemy positions along the River Selle were of great natural strength and were held with resolution.

"The attack was launched by English, Scottish and Welsh divisions at 2 o'clock in the morning under most unfavorable weather conditions, a continuous rain rendering the advance extremely difficult. The fighting was heavy throughout the day, the enemy offering strong resistance in the villages and along the line of the railway.

In overcoming this resistance great resistance was rendered at certain points by tanks, which, despite the flooded state of the river, succeeded in passing to the east bank at an early hour.

"As soon as the line of the river was secured a number of bridges were rapidly constructed under a heavy fire from the hostile artillery and machine guns, enabling our guns to push forward close behind the advancing infantry and to afford them effective support at short range."

FRENCH.

PARIS, Oct. 21.—Following is the text of today's War Office report:

"The night was marked by rather heavy artillery activity between the Serre and the Aisne. In Lorraine and Alsace incursions into the German lines enabled the French to take prisoners."

SERBIAN.

LONDON, Oct. 21.—The Serbian War Office statement to-day says:

"On Saturday French cavalry with a detachment of Serbian infantry entered Zaitchar. Further west we captured Bolyevitz. In the valley of the West Morava River our troops have entered Trstenik."

BELGIAN.

LONDON, Oct. 21.—Following is the latest report issued by the Belgian War Office:

"The advance of the army groups, under command of King Albert, continued throughout Sunday. After vainly trying to arrest our progress toward the western bank of the Lys, along the Devigne-Ereloo Canal and near the Dutch frontier, the Germans have been forced to withdraw over the whole front.

"The Belgian army has established itself along the canal. Its left flank is on the Dutch frontier, and the army has occupied the important centers of Aalst, Adegheem, Belem and Ureel, about ten miles west of Ghent.

"French forces have thrown the enemy rear guards back over the Lys, and, notwithstanding floods brought

about by the Germans, have crossed the river and reestablished bridgeheads. One of these is between Grammont and Pétieghem and another in east of Ouyghem.

"The Second British army, in spite of strong resistance and the difficulties arising from destroyed communications, has crossed the Lys along the whole of its front and advanced its right flank to the western outskirts of Peq, id the Valley of the Escant. The line now runs west of Peq and through St. Leger, Dottignies, Rollegem, Vichte, Dalsyck and Driehem.

"Since Oct. 14 the second army has captured 6,500 prisoners and 160 guns."

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—The following communique from Gen. Pershing, dated yesterday, was made public to-day:

"West of the Meuse our troops have continued their pressure on the enemy. East of Batheville in the course of local fighting in the Bois des Rappes they captured over 100 prisoners. On the entire front north of Verdun there has been heavy artillery and machine gun fire. Several counter attacks have been thrown back with heavy losses to the enemy.

"During the heavy fighting of the last week north of Verdun we have drawn from other parts of the western front a constantly increasing number of German divisions which are bitterly contesting every foot against our strong attacks in order to secure the retreat of the German army, the position of which has been compromised by the attacks from the south and west."

ITALIAN.

ROME, Oct. 21.—To-day's War Office statement reports considerable artillery fighting on the Asiago plateau and Mount Grappa sectors. At Sismondi French patrols penetrated the enemy lines, inflicting heavy losses, taking prisoners and machine guns. A hostile outpost in the Frenzela valley was dispersed.

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SURE SIGN OF OUR VICTORY IS UNITY OF THE ALLIES.

FOCH TELLS LLOYD GEORGE

Birthday Messages Between Premier and Commander Are Made Public Here.

TELEGRAMS exchanged between Premier Lloyd George and Marshal Foch on the occasion of the latter's 67th birthday were made public to-day by the British Bureau of Information in this city. Mr. Lloyd George said:

"Please accept my sincere congratulations on your birthday. I feel a particular pleasure in addressing you at the moment when the Allied armies under your direction are making formidable a change in the military situation. I do not know whether I should the more admire your marvelous skill as a commander or your indomitable courage and the unquenchable faith in victory which

you have shown in the course of this war."

Marshal Foch replied:

"I am greatly touched by your congratulations and thank you sincerely. I do not forget that it is to your insistence that I am in the position which I occupy to-day. This sure sign of the glorious days awaiting our armies is to be found in the perfect unity which exists now between all the Allied forces."

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